

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

TO

OFFICIAL INDICATED BELOW

✓ Bill Baker

1924

this was apparently  
lost in being carried -  
or we talked? -

at this time past

Any need to  
respond - do you?

I've been driven  
with the B myr

See Me

Note and return

For your recommendation

Prepare reply and return for my signature

Respond over your signature

What are the facts?

Please handle

Hold

I agree you should  
let this matter  
lie at rest.

Remarks:

✓ 124 No need to  
respond.

**DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE**

**TO**

**OFFICIAL INDICATED BELOW 5 AUG 1988**

  
**Bill Baker**

STAT

*Must I reply?  
I think  
better to let this  
lie, & talk  
later to Fritz  
if appropriate —*

☐ **See Me**

☐ **Note and return**

☒ **For your recommendation**

☐ **Prepare reply and return for my signature**

☐ **Respond over your signature**

☐ **What are the facts?**

☐ **Please handle**

☐ **Hold**

**Remarks:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# The Washington Times

ARNAUD de BORCHGRAVE  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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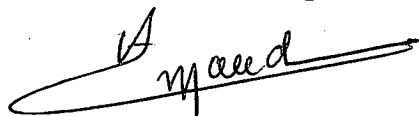
August 5, 1988

Judge William Webster  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Bill:

In his first graph, Fritz Hollings is referring to the fact that you thought we did a good editorial on the matter you called me about. I am attaching a copy of a letter I just received from Fritz which is self-explanatory. Let me know what you think.

With kindest personal regards,



Arnaud de Borchgrave

AB:bp

Enclosure

P-300-IR

ERNEST F. HOLLINGS  
SOUTH CAROLINA

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August 4, 1988

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Mr. Arnaud de Borchgrave  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES  
3600 New York Avenue, NE  
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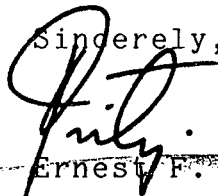
Dear Arnaud:

I won't comment on each point but let me hasten to state  
Judge Webster knows better.

Without any reference to the finding itself, referring  
only to procedure, a covert activity should be taken up in the  
most limited nature -- the director of national security with  
the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the two Congressional  
Intelligence Committees. In this case, the procedure and common  
sense were so violated that the Chairman and Ranking Member of  
the Senate Intelligence Committee complained publicly in your  
newspaper of an Administration set-up -- I believe it. When  
told in a hush-hush fashion that I should attend in the next  
hour a meeting, I went to the Committee which was already  
crowded outside with the press. Instead of a small, restricted  
group, there were 60 in the room including PR personnel from the  
White House. I learned later that a member of the Defense  
Appropriations Subcommittee had already been briefed the day  
before and six Congressional committees were on the briefing  
list. Judge Webster should be ashamed of the finding, the  
Administration should be ashamed of the leak.

With personal regards, I am

Sincerely,



Ernest F. Hollings

EFH/kk

The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Washington Times F-2  
 The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Christian Science Monitor \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
 USA Today \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Chicago Tribune \_\_\_\_\_

Date 28 July '88

## Nobody's got a secret

Thanks to The Washington Post, the whole world now knows that President Reagan has signed a finding to authorize a covert action plan against Panama's bullyboy, Manuel Antonio Noriega. The news, which gave the caudillo whatever kind of alert he might have needed, seems to confirm the general suspicion that American covert action soon will be a thing of the past. The unnamed sources said the finding does not involve kidnapping Gen. Noriega and includes no provisions for military or paramilitary action against his government. This meek characterization provides perfect grist for the foes of covert action, such as the unnamed congressional source who told the Post that the finding didn't provide a "serious, detailed plan."

The merits of taking measures, covert or not, against the corrupt, anti-American and pro-Cuban dictator should not be at issue. Gen. Noriega has led the administration a merry chase for the past year or more, and if the best way to be rid of him is to carry out a plan in which the role of the U.S. government is not apparent or acknowledged publicly — the definition of covert action — the CIA should get on with it.

What is at issue here is whether any covert action, or indeed any official secret, is now possible with sources in Washington blabbing to newspapers — and congressional sources using the news to blast the already weakened intelligence industry. The recent story was in the tradition of exposing the covert funding of the Nicaraguan resistance in 1982 and a covert action plan directed against Libya's Col. Muammar Qaddafi in 1985. Such exposures, by revealing the existence of covert activities, destroy them and also put at risk the operatives, American and foreign, who carry them out.

The 1947 National Security Act authorizes the CIA "to perform such other functions and duties related to intelligence affecting the national security as the National Security Council determines can be more effectively accomplished centrally," a phrase long held to include covert action. Under later legisla-

tion, the president must sign "findings" to authorize covert actions, "prior notice" of which must be provided to the intelligence committees of the House and Senate "in a timely fashion" except in extraordinary circumstances. Ever since these reporting requirements were adopted in the 1970s, no covert action program has been safe from the army of congressmen and staffers who learn about them.

Things can only get worse. The House will soon take up a major piece of legislation that would require the president to notify Congress within 48 hours of new covert action plans, and CIA Director William Webster, his predecessor under President Carter, Adm. Stansfield Turner, and Adm. Turner's deputy director, Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci, all have testified against the measure as destructive of the president's ability to conduct foreign policy, covert or otherwise.

Not the least of the bill's problems is that it would increase the chances of exposure by giving timely notice to those on Capitol Hill whose hobby it is to sink covert action as soon as it's launched. The Senate has already passed a companion bill, and before the House follows suit, it ought to consider carefully the effect of such new restrictions on our national security and the government's ability to keep legitimate secrets.

Any honest appraisal will indicate that the notification rule will cripple our intelligence capability under the pretext of creating "accountability" for such operations. That's a sham pretext for the simple reason that there's no evidence that our intelligence community has been overstepping its bounds. If anything, Mr. Webster has bent over backwards to accommodate legitimate questions by Congress.

The notification rule will ensure only one thing: While our external foes continue to mount effective covert action campaigns, our own intelligence community will collapse, as "secret" activities routinely become front-page news.